

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD
MINUTES

Date: March 24, 2020
Time: 10:00am
Place: Town Hall
Egremont

Present via zoom meeting were Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Board member Mary Brazie. Also present was Sue Funk and Joe Schneider.

It was announced that the meeting is audio recorded.

Treasurer Sue Funk explained the debt needs for the Mount Washington Road project. The Town needs to only raise the interest payment for FY 21 in the amount of \$12,835.50. A principal payment of 1/10th along with interest will be needed in FY 22. The debt payment schedule as submitted was approved.

Lucinda reported that MassDOT was in the South Village working. She will follow up and find out why.

Joe Schneider explained the increase in the stipend from \$28,500 to \$30,000 as a small attempt to thank the dedicated few members the Department has and possibly attract younger members. Discussion ensued over how to attract and keep younger members. Town's are very quickly moving towards paid fire personnel. The Department is also seeking \$20,000 to pay Joe as the Chief. He would then not get a stipend and would take inspection fees. The Board felt it was best to also fund again the item for paid administrative help at \$12,000. The budget item for OSHA compliance will remain at \$10,000 and the Department's expenses will remain level at \$53,500. It was agreed to not fund the draft hydrants budget. The Board approved all of the above requests.

Joe reported that the Department is comfortable right now with its PPE. They are using their airpacks for Coronavirus protection. He has been in close communication with the Police Department throughout. They are responding but staying outside if they can.

The Board approved the FY 21 Health Insurance premium increase. A budget will be formulated based on these rates.

At 10:44am the meeting recessed to March 25, 2020 at 10am.

Meeting reconvened at 10am on March 26, 2020 via remote participation. Present were all Board members, Mary McGurn, and for parts of the meeting Steve Cohen, Juliette Haas and Chuck Ogden.

Covid-19:

A self-quarantine advisory is being sent out and added to the town directives mailer that was developed to send with the tax bills. (A copy is attached.)

The playgrounds at French Park will be posted as closed. The tennis courts will be locked.

George is working with Bruce Bernstein, Peg McDonough of BRPC and SBET to get a shuttle bus from Egremont for residents in need.

Lucinda reported that MassDOT was in town recently working on the dam at Smiley's Pond.

Lucinda also noted that public schools are now closed until May 4.

Legislation has been passed to allow postpone of Town Elections. Legislation is being enacted to allow postponement of Town Meetings beyond the 30 days allowed at this time. With the recommendation of Legal Counsel the all parties agreed to postpone but to not establish a new date until April 14, 2020.

The Board will meet at 10am on March 31 as well as at 6pm.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00am.

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

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The recording of the minutes is on record at the Town Hall for 90 days. Anyone who wishes to may obtain a copy or listen to the recording at Town Hall. Attachments are on file at Town Hall.